incorporated energy-efficient technology in their recently commissioned expansion unit. It is also implementing energy conservation schemes in their old unit. Proposals for introducing advanced instrumentation in their old unit are also being developed.

Natural gas found on-Shore wells, Rajole and Narasapur

881. PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news item which appeared in the Hindu, dated 6th April, 1985;

(b) whether it is a fact that the ONGC has found good deposits of natural gas in the on-shore wells in Rajole and Narasapur in the Krishna-Godavari basin;

(c) if so, what steps have been taken by Government to put the deposits to commercial use:

(d) whether it is also a fact that the ONGC is unable to assure the supply of gas beyond the establishment of the reserves to Andhra Pradesh State Electricity Board as a result of which the gas is not put to effective use for power generation;

(e) whether the ONGC propose to purchase mobile generating sets and produce power with gas; and

(f) whether the Central Govt. are lukewarm to commit continued gas supply to APSEB after establishing the reserves till a specified period to offset the money spent by APSEB for making necessary change in the machinery?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Narasapur-3 and 5 wells have been found to be gas bearing during testing.

(c), (d) and (f) As these fields are yet to be fully explored and production potential and commercial viability established, long-term commitments for supply of gas cannot be made at this stage;

(e) In order to avoid flaring of gas produced during extended production testing of these wells, ONGC is in the process of identifying suitable short-term consumers. In case such consumers are not available ONGC may contemplate utilisation of this gas for power generation by purchasing mobile gas generators.

Newsprint prices

882. SHRI LAL K. ADVANI:
SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) by how much the Nepa, Mysore and Kerala newsprints' sale prices of various sizes have increased since 1st January, 1981;

(b) by how much the (STC High-sea) sale prices of Canadian newsprint have increased in the same period;

(c) whether the price of Indian newsprint is the highest in the world; if so, what are the details thereof; and

(d) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the hardships inflicted on the newspaper industry due to the inefficiency and bad performance of Nepa and other newsprint producing units; if so, what remedial action is proposed to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) The ex-factory prices of newsprint produced by

three paper mills from time to time are as follows:—

	Date	Price per tonnes
1. National Newsprint and Paper Mills Ltd. (for 55 gsm)	January, 1981	3,956
	April, 1981	4,277
	July, 1981	4,700
	September, 1982	5,200
	June, 1983	5,600
	March, 1984	6,400
	31-12-1985	7,800
2. Hindustan Newsprint Ltd. (52 gsm) . . .	March, 1982	6,400
	August, 1982	6,750
	January, 1983	7,000
	February, 1984	7,100
	April, 1984	8,000
	31-12-1985	8,960
3. Mysore Paper Mills Ltd. (52 gsm)	May, 1982	7,225
	April, 1984	8,000
	31-12-1985	8,960

(b) The sale price (high-sea) of imported standard newsprint was Rs. 4560 per tonne as on 1.1.1981 and this has increased to Rs. 6645 per tonne for the quarter April-June, 1986.

(c) Prices information with regard to the price of newsprint in various countries is not available.

(d) The indigenous newsprint industry is already working to about 98 per cent of its capacity. Continuous efforts are made to further improve the capacity utilisation of the existing units including NEPA Mills and to reduce cost of production by ensuring timely and adequate supply of major inputs, inventory management and other measures.

Offer of Union Carbide Corporation

883. SHRI K. VASUDEVA PANICKER: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news item which appeared on p. 1, cols 2-5 of the Times of India, dated the 4th April, 1986, captioned 'Union Carbide' fined $1.4 m;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and